

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

District Two

November 2010 Edition

Welcome!

As your District Two representative on the Howard County Council, it is a pleasure to reach out and notify my constituents on informational programs, services and area events happening throughout our District Two community and Howard County.

I have included in this newsletter details on how you can get involved in our community

through volunteering or participation which are included at the end of this edition.

Please continue to share this Bulletin with friends, neighbors, and community organizations. If you don't already receive this bulletin directly and would like to subscribe, email me at cball@howardcountymd.gov and I will be happy to add you to our distribution list!



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

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Oakland Mills Community Meeting on Safety Awareness!

The Oakland Mills Community Association is inviting residents to attend a community meeting on **Tuesday, November 16, 2010** from **7:00pm-8:30pm** held at **The Other Barn** in the Oakland Mills Village Center. Local law enforcement officers will be on hand to discuss important tips to stay safe in our communities. For more details, contact **Fred Eiland**, Community Organizer at OMCommunityOrganizer@ColumbiaVillages.org or call **410-730-1129**.

Maryland's Early Voting -- Make Your Voice Count and Avoid Lines!

Early voting for the General Election will begin **Friday, October 22, 2010** and run through **October 28, 2010**. Early voting sites include Ridgely's Run Community Center, The Bain Center and The Ellicott City Senior Center. For more info, call **410-313-5820** or visit www.howardcountymd.gov/BOE/BOE_earlyvoting.htm.

Long Reach Village Center Hosts Halloween Party!

On **Saturday, October 30, 2010**, Long Reach will be hosting a Halloween Party from **1:00pm-3:00pm** at the **Stonehouse**. Children up to 10 years old are invited to join in on the fun! Come in costume and enjoy Trick-or-Treating at Village Center Merchants. Please note that these children must be accompanied by an adult.

Also available will be pumpkin decorating, a magic show and refreshments. For more information, call **410-730-8113**.

Thank You for Your Patience!

A construction project to create a bio-retention "facility" on 3 newly constructed islands in the main parking lot at the Thomas B. Dorsey Bldg on Bendix Rd is currently underway. A portion of the north parking lot will be closed during construction but will not impact traffic flow. Weather permitting; this project should be complete by mid-October.

Open Enrollment for Moderate Incoming Housing Unit Program – Deadline October 29!

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity! Howard County Housing has been accepting applications during the month of October for their enrollment period in the County's Moderate Incoming Housing Unit (MIHU). The current deadline to submit an application for enrollment is **Friday, October 29, 2010**.

As you may know, an inclusionary zoning program, MIHU requires developers of new housing in certain zoning districts to sell or rent some of the new dwelling units to households of moderate income. The program offers quality new homes at reduced sale prices and rental rates to eligible families.

Interested persons should visit Housing's website at www.howardcountymd.gov/DH/DH_HomePage.htm or call Howard County Housing at **410-313-6318**.

Become a 2011 Rising Star – Deadline November 1st!

The Howard County Arts Council established the Rising Star Award to provide opportunities for emerging performing artists with roots in Howard County and to assist them in the development and practice of their art. This event is open to individual performing artists, ages 18-35, currently or previously living, working, performing regularly, or receiving training in Howard County.

Each finalist will perform one piece at the Arts Council's annual benefit gala, **Celebration of the Arts in Howard County**. The early application deadline with NO FEE is **Friday, October 1, 2010** and the deadline to submit an application (\$10.00 fee) is **Monday, November 1, 2010**. For more information, call **410-313-2790**.

November 2nd is Election Day – Cast Your Ballot!

It's Official... Tuesday, November 2, 2010 is the General Election and Howard County residents are encouraged to visit the polls to make your voice heard! In this election, voters will be asked to cast their ballot for the following positions: Governor & Lt. Governor, Comptroller, Attorney General, US Senator, US Representatives, State Senators, State Delegates, County Executive, County Council, State's Attorney, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Register of Wills, Three Judges of the Orphans' Court, Sheriff and Board of Education.

Unsure of your polling location? Visit <http://gis.howardcountymd.gov/GElection/GElection.asp> to enter your address for the specific polling location details. For a list of Howard County's 2010 List of Candidates, visit www.elections.state.md.us/elections/2010/CountyCandidatesList.

HCPSS Publications Focus Group Needs Parents!

The Public Information Office is looking for parents to participate in a focus group to give feedback on the school system's Weekly News for Parents, Student/Parent Handbook, and Summer Programs Catalog. This event will be held **Thursday, November 4, 2010** from **7:00pm-8:30pm** at **Applications and Research Lab Room B-37, 10920 Route 108 Ellicott City, MD**. Participants will be asked their opinions regarding the effectiveness of each publication and for suggestions for improvement and distribution.

If you would like to participate, please contact **Anna Gable** at agable@hcpss.org or call **410-313-7496**. Please include your name, address and phone number.

Voices for Children to Host "A Vintage Affair"... Tickets Are Going Fast!

Voices for Children is a local non-profit organization and serves as a shining example of how private individuals can have a tremendous affect on their community and help the most vulnerable among us. This year, Voices will host their annual fundraiser "A Vintage Affair" on **Friday, November 5, 2010** from **8-11pm**, with a special VIP reception held from **7-8pm**. This event will be held at the General Growth Properties Building, 10275 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia, MD. Main event tickets are \$75 per person. VIP Tickets are \$125 per person and include admission into the VIP reception which will feature exclusive dishes and wines that will not be available during the main event.

To purchase tickets while supplies last, visit www.voicesforchildren.org/PaymentProcessing1.aspx For more info, call **410-740-0933**.

Get Crafty with OMHS Craft Fair!

Come out and join us for the 22nd Annual OMHS PTSA Craft Fair being held on **Saturday, November 6, 2010** from **10am to 3pm**. Get an early start on your Holiday shopping by visiting the 80+ vendors who are displaying their unique crafts, gifts and jewelry! Stay for lunch at the "Scorps Café" or enjoy the treats available at the Bake Sale!"

Entrance to the Craft Fair is **FREE**. All proceeds from the Craft Fair are used to fund PTSA activities held throughout the school year, including After-Prom and teacher support. Come enjoy the community spirit: Eat Good Food – Catch up with Neighborhood Friends – SHOP til you DROP!

Mortgage Fraud Prevention Workshop!

The Howard County Office of Consumer Affairs, Department of Housing and Community Development, Civil Justice and the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition will be holding a workshop on **Saturday, November 6, 2010** from **9:30am-1:00pm** at the Bain Center aimed at helping home buyers and home owners avoid and address mortgage fraud. Attorneys will be available to review loan documents and give advice to consumers who pre-register for the workshop.

Please note that pre-registration guarantees a **FREE** legal consultation. Send your name and a daytime phone number by **November 3, 2010** to mfp@civiljusticenetwork.org or call **Erica Evans** at Civil Justice Inc. at **410-706-0174**. Let them know if you are buying, refinancing, or have already closed on your loan and feel free to email questions for the attorneys ahead of time to the same address by **November 3, 2010**.

Workshop Dedicated to Women Struggling in Economic Downturn!

The Howard County Commission for Women will sponsor a workshop entitled "Getting Ahead: How to Move from Surviving to Thriving in this Economy". This event will be held **Saturday, November 6, 2010** from **3-5pm** at the **East Columbia Library, 6600 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD**. This event is **FREE** and open to the public.

The workshop will offer tools and resources available in the community to help women better meet their needs during these tough economic times. A presentation on how women can better position themselves for success will be offered followed by a choice of two breakout sessions:

Session 1: Opportunities for women who would like to start their own business

Session 2: Opportunities for women who would like to return to school

Both breakout sessions will feature tips, resources and networking opportunities.

For more details, contact the Commission for Women through Howard County's Department of Citizen Services at **410-313-6400**, use Relay or 7-1-1 between 8am and 5pm or email women@howardcountymd.gov.

Teen 2 Teen – Preventing Substance Abuse!

Teens and their parents are invited to attend a **FREE** session on **Tuesday, November 9, 2010 at 7:00pm** held in the **Atholton High School Media Center, 6520 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD** and is co-sponsored by HC DrugFree and Atholton High School. Teens will describe their experiences with substances abuse and how they overcame those challenges to make healthier choices. Drug and alcohol abuse counselor Mark Donovan will lead a panel discussion and answer questions about what parents should look for and what they can do.

High School Career Academies Information Series

Parents and students in grades 8-10 are invited to information sessions about the Career Academies. These programs enable high school students to focus on a course of study related to their academics and career interests. All sessions are from **7:00pm-9:00pm** and held at the **Applications and Research Lab, 10920 Route 108 Ellicott City, MD**. The sessions are as follows: **Wednesday, November 10** (Grade 8 and Parents), **Thursday, November 18** (Grades 9-10 and Parents), and **Wednesday, January 5** (Grades 8-10 and Parents).

All are welcome at any session. For more information and a complete list of Academies, visit <http://www2.hcpss.org/cte/> or call the Office of Career and Technology Education at **410-313-6629**.

Howard County Commission for Women Seeking Hall of Fame Nominations!

Howard County's Commission for Women is seeking nominations for outstanding women to be inducted into the 2011 Women's Hall of Fame. This annual event honors Howard County women who have made significant contributions to Howard County, the State of Maryland or the nation through their profession and/or community service and who are models of achievement for tomorrow's female leaders.

The deadline for submission is **Friday, November 12, 2010**. To be eligible for this award, nominees can either be living or deceased and must have lived in Howard County for at least 10 years. Up to five women will be selected for induction at the Commission's annual Women's Hall of Fame ceremony on **Thursday, March 10, 2011**.

To obtain a copy of the nomination form, visit the Department of Citizen Services' website at www.howardcountymd.gov/CitizenServices or contact the Department either by calling **410-313-6400** or e-mailing women@howardcountymd.gov.

Surviving the Recession: Education Series!

The third installment of the Surviving the Recession Series entitled "Budgeting & Bankruptcy – Debt Management Plan vs. Debt Liquidation" will be held **Saturday, November 13, 2010 from 9:30am-12:30pm** at **Howard Community College, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, RCF 400, Columbia, MD**. This education series provides consumers and home buyers what they need to navigate today's economy. Get the information you need to make the best decision for your family.

Seating is limited, so interested attendees are encouraged to make a reservation by calling **410-313-3441**. To preview all series events and learn about homeownership opportunities in Howard County, visit www.ComeHometoHowardCounty.org.

Minding the Store: Retail Realities in Commercial Centers!

The Columbia Association (CA) is pleased to host guest speaker Tom Moriarity, who will present *Minding the Store: retail Realities in Commercial Centers*, on **Monday November 8, 2010** from **7-9pm** at **Historic Oakland, 5430 Vantage Point Rd, Columbia, MD**. This presentation on economics of retailing will address what retailers want and/or require and what is necessary to make neighborhood-oriented retail centers work. Moriarity, an expert on commercial districts and revitalization, will focus his remarks on commercial centers similar in scale to Columbia's nine village centers.

Registration is desired but not required to attend this presentation. To register or to find out more information, please email Event.RSVP@ColumbiaAssociation.com or call **410-750-3107**.

College Admissions: Looking Beyond the Rankings to Find the Right College Fit!

Students and parents are invited to find out how to approach the college search process with a focus on the student – not on ratings and rankings – in order to determine a great college choice. This event will be held **Tuesday, November 16, 2010** at **7:00pm** at **Long Reach High School, 6101 Old Dobbin Road, Columbia, MD**.

Marty O'Connell, a dynamic and nationally-recognized speaker and college admissions expert, will seek to calm the frenzy surrounding college admissions. She believes that college admission is not a competitive sport, and knows the advantages students enjoy when enrolled in colleges where individual attention is the norm.

Long Reach High School Hosts Energy Conservation Forum!!

Come join us for a exciting and interactive evening of energy solutions sponsored by the Long Reach High School G/T Research students, the Environmental Club and the Interact Club! This fun filled celebration will be held **Wednesday, November 17, 2010** from **7:00pm-8:30pm** at **Long Reach High School, 6101 Old Dobbin Road, Columbia, MD**.

Among other fantastic ideas, learn ways to save money, eliminate waste in your home, the value of home energy audits, and understand the charges on your utility bill. For more information, contact **Diane McAllister** at **410-313-7117**.

Art MD 2010 Exhibit Opens!

Art MD 2010 begins **Friday, October 29, 2010** and runs through **Friday, December 10, 2010** located at the Howard County Center for the Arts in Ellicott City. This exhibit is an exciting survey of 41 Maryland artists whom reside in regions within a 100-mile radius of the Center's location in Ellicott City.

An exhibit reception will be held at the Center **Friday, November 5, 2010** from **6-8pm**. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday 10am-8pm, Saturday 10am-4pm and Sunday 12pm-4pm. To learn more about this exhibit and other HCCA programs call **410-313-2787**, email info@hocoarts.org or visit www.hocoarts.org.

Human Rights Commission Seeks Nominees for 2010 Human Rights Award!

The Human Rights Commission is now seeking nominations for its 2010 Human Rights Award which recognizes outstanding achievement in eliminating discrimination and advancing the human rights for all Howard County residents. The Awards Ceremony will be held **Tuesday, November 16, 2010 7:30pm** at the **Slayton House** in Wilde Lake, **10451 Twin Rivers Road, Columbia, MD**.

To be eligible for this award, nominees may be living or deceased, must have lived in Howard County for at least 10 years, have displayed leadership and achievement within Howard County's human rights movement, and their efforts must have had a lasting impact.

Nomination forms can be obtained by visiting the Office of Human Rights website at www.howardcountymd.gov/HR/HR_HomePage.htm or by calling Frank Eastham, Vice Chair of the Human Rights Commission at **410-313-6956**.

Deer Management Program for 2010-2011 Season!

The Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks has announced its fall/winter schedule of managed deer hunts. The hunted will be held in an effort to help maintain a stable, balanced white-tailed deer population in our parks where deer browsing has been shown to reduce biodiversity. The hunting schedule is as follows:

Alpha Ridge Park:

Bow & Shotgun November 16; January 4; February 3

Blandair Park:

Bow Hunting October 26; November 9; November 23; February 2

David Force Park:

Bow & Shotgun October 28; November 18; December 9; January 19

High Ridge Park:

Shotgun Hunting November 3; November 17; December 15

Middle Patuxent Environmental Area:

Bow & Shotgun November 4; November 11; December 16; January 6;
January 20; February 10

Schooley Mill Park:

Shotgun Hunting November 10; December 8; December 22; January 5

West Friendship Park:

Shotgun Hunting December 13; December 14

In addition, the Department of Recreation & Parks will host their 2nd Annual Wounded Veteran Managed Deer Hung on **December 13 and 14** at **West Friendship Park**. Open to recovering soldiers throughout the region, registration for this hunt is required. For more information or to register for the wounded veterans hung, contact **Kevin Vest**, Program Coordinator, at ksvest@howardcountymd.gov.

HCGH'S Dazzle Dash!

Howard County General Hospital (HCGH) is preparing for the annual Dazzle Dash on the weekend of **November 20-21, 2010**. This community event celebrates the opening of the 17th Annual Symphony of Lights. For more details, visit www.hcgh.org/content/dazzledash/default.htm or call HCGH for more details at **410-740-7840**.

Attention All High School Seniors!

Are you planning to pursue a higher education in the Arts? The Howard County Arts Council's 2011 Arts Scholarship Application is now available! This year, the Council will award a minimum of \$10,000 in scholarship funds to students entering college in the 2011-2012 academic year. Scholarships must be used for enrollment in an accredited college program for a degree in the arts.

Applicants must be a legal resident of Howard County. Applications are available online at www.hocoarts.org and must be postmarked or hand-delivered by **Monday, December 13, 2010**.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission Seeks Members!

Howard County Executive Ken Ulman invites interested residents to apply for openings on the Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Commission. The term is for two years and only Howard County residents 18 years of age or older are eligible to apply. Interested residents must be willing to attend the Commission's meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at the Columbia Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive at 7pm.

Please send letters of interest, including resumes to **Jessica Feldmark**, Chief of Staff, George Howard Building, **3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043**.

Howard County Seasonal Flu Vaccine Clinics!

Keep yourself healthy by getting the Seasonal Flu vaccine! There is NO CHARGE for County Employees (with ID). Both FluMist and Injectable are available. Upcoming clinic dates and times are below.

Monday, November 8, 2010

Howard County Govt Employees, General Public – Walk-in
9:00am-11:30am and 1pm-3:30pm
Health Department Administrative Offices
7178 Columbia Gateway Drive
Columbia, MD 21046

Friday, November 19, 2010

Howard County Employees, General Public – Walk-in
9:00am-11:30am and 1:00pm-3:30pm
Columbia Health Center (next to Health Dept. Administrative Offices)
7180 Columbia Gateway Drive
Columbia, MD 21046

For more up-to-date information, call 410-313-6300 or visit
www.co.ho.md.us/Health/HealthMain/InfectionControl/Infection_Flu.htm

Mentors & Tutors Wanted!

A-OK (Assisting Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring Program needs adult volunteers to work in Howard County schools, grades K-8, and after-school programs. A-OK works with several schools including Oakland Mills MS, Phelps Luck and Talbott Springs ES. For more info, call 410-730-2273 or email chayakaplan@verizon.net

Alzheimer's Early-Stage Programs Now Available!

A new education support group for Early Stage Alzheimer's individuals and their care partners has come to Howard County to enhance the lives of individuals with Alzheimer's disease. The Alzheimer's Early-Stage Education Series will begin **Wednesday, November 3, 2010** from **6:30pm-8:00pm**. This is a weekly seminar (skipping November 24, 2010) and will be held at the **Glenwood 50+ Center, 2400 Route 97, Cooksville, MD 21723**.

In addition, the Alzheimer's Early-Stage Social Club has been formed and will begin in **January 2011**. It will be held from 9:00am-1:00pm Wednesdays and Fridays and Pre-screening is required. To reserve your space and/or for pre-screening, call **Judy Miller** at **410-313-5441**. For more information on the Alzheimer's association, call **1-800-272-3900** or visit www.alz.org/maryland.

Internet Safety Presentation for Parents!

Parents are invited to a presentation about Internet safety featuring cyber security expert John Bradshaw on **Wednesday, December 1, 2010** from **7-8:30pm** in the **Wilde Lake Middle School Cafeteria, 10481 Cross Fox Lane, Columbia, MD**. Learn helpful tips for keeping children safe on the Internet. Topics will include social networking, identity theft and other current technology issues.

Polar Express Tickets Still Available But Going Fast!

Put on your pajamas, board the train and experience the magic of "The Polar Express". The classic children's book by Chris Van Allsburg comes to life in The Loft of The Other Barn. Tickets are available for **Thursday, December 2, 2010** at **5:30pm** and **Friday, December 3, 2010** at **5:30pm or 7:30pm**. Enjoy refreshments while listening to the magical story during the journey to the North Pole, where Santa will board the train and give each child the first gift of Christmas. As the train travels back to Columbia, sing Christmas carols and be filled with the joy of the upcoming season! For details, call **410-730-4610**.

39th Annual Holiday Mart!

Join the Department of Recreation & Parks as they celebrate the 39th year of this popular craft event **Saturday, December 4, 2010** from **10:00am-5:00pm** at the **Gary J. Arthur Center at Glenwood, 2700 Route 97, Cooksville, MD**. This event will feature unique and unusual juried works presented by over 135 craftpersons and will give you endless ideas for any gifts you may be in search of. For more information, call **410-313-4700**.

Columbia Festival of the Arts – 2011 Season Design Contest!

The Columbia Festival of the Arts invites K-12 students to enter its 2011 Season Design Contest. The winning entry will be featured on the cover of the season brochure and program magazine. Additionally, the winner will receive \$500! Deadline submission is **Friday, March 4, 2011**.

For more information or to obtain an Entry Submission form, visit www.ColumbiaFestival.com. Click the “Participate” tab. Multiple entries will be accepted.

BRAC Corner!

Are you a business owner interested in becoming a contractor or already a Defense Contractor looking for additional information? The BRAC Business Initiative (BBI) holds meetings every 5-6 weeks at the Other Barn, **5851 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, MD** from **7:30am to 10:30am**.

This event is FREE and no RSVP is required to attend the meetings. The following dates have been scheduled and I encourage your business or organization to attend and fully take advantage of BRAC: **December 8, 2010, January 12, 2011, and February 23, 2011**.

Not a business owner but still interested in what’s going on relating to BRAC? Join us for our Update Meetings typically held the **4th Wednesday of each month** from **3:30pm to 4:30pm, Howard County Gateway Office Building, Suite 500**. These meetings are FREE and open to the public; however, seating is limited so please plan to arrive early.

For any questions on the BBI or our monthly update meetings, call **Raj Kudchadkar** at **410-313-6376** or email rkudchadkar@howardcountymd.gov.

Newest Feature for Maryland’s Workforce Exchange!

This week, a new web feature was unveiled on Maryland’s Workforce Exchange. The new feature uses web “spidering technology” which collects and combines every job search website, every employer website, and every job posting in Maryland and creates a real-time, web-based, one-stop shop for Maryland job seekers.

Job seekers in Maryland can now search more than 80,000 presently open and active jobs across Maryland, indicating that while Maryland comes through this national recession, our State’s employers ARE hiring! For more info or to apply, visit <https://mwe.dllr.state.md.us/default.asp?SessionUID=a>

Economic Indicators Released for Howard County!

The Howard County Government and the Howard County Chamber of Commerce recently released a joint publication describing economic indicators for Howard County and surrounding areas. This information is able to provide advance warning of possible shifts in the local economy that may be helpful in the evaluation of current and future government policies and private sector business decisions.

To view this report, visit www.co.ho.md.us/DOA/DOApdfs/September%202010.pdf.

Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved!

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below you will find helpful links for parents and youth.

Howard County Library www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22

FINALLY! Something to Do in Howard County www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=52321251379

Youth Howard County www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=47846991445&v=info&ref=ts

I encourage you to share this information with friends, families, neighbors and most importantly, your children.

Beware of Driveway Paving Scams!

The Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation and the Howard County Office of Consumer Affairs are warning homeowners seeking driveway improvements of a scam. Unlicensed traveling contractors may attempt to defraud homeowners by offering inexpensive asphalt coating or sealing services, then merely cover the driveway with oil mixed with water or black paint, or other inferior substances that quickly crumble or wash away with the next rainstorm.

Consumers are reminded that they can check whether someone is licensed to perform any service in Maryland regulated by the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing by visiting www.dlrr.maryland.gov/license. Consumer advice is available from the Maryland Home Improvement Commission at www.dlrr.maryland.gov/license/mhic/mhiccon.shtml.

In addition, all solicitors going door-to-door in Howard County must first obtain a solicitor license from the Office of Consumer Affairs. Please ask to see their registration card and refuse to do business with anyone who does not produce one. Questions and complaints about solicitors and other consumer issues can be directed to the Office of Consumer Affairs at 410-313-6420 and additional information is available online at www.howardcountymd.gov/CA/CS_ConsumerAffairs.htm.

MD Aviation Administration Grants Available!

Every year, MAA makes available 100% no-match grant funds to communities impacted by the BWI Marshall Airport noise impacts from aircraft takeoffs and landings. The amounts of funds are correlated with takeoffs and landings. These grants are made to certified HOAs, community organizations, etc., not to local government. Projects for funding must be Transportation-related and funds can only be used for construction.

Now is the time for your community to take action! If you are located within a two-mile radius of the BWI airport, you are eligible to submit a request for grant consideration. For more details, please contact the Office of Noise, Real Estate and Land Use Compatibility at 410-859-7375, email maanoiseabatement@mdot.state.md.us or visit their website online at <http://www.maacommunityrelations.com/content/communityprograms/grantrequirements.php>

I recommend sharing your thoughts and ideas with my office by emailing me at cball@howardcountymd.gov so that I can continue to advocate on your behalf. If you are eligible, I wish your community success when applying for consideration.

Recycling... Do's And Don'ts!

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, visit www.co.ho.md.us/DPW/docs/recycling_chart_web.pdf or call 410-313-6444.

Oakland Mills Farmers Market!

Come out and support our local businesses! The Oakland Mills Farmers Market began operating **May 9, 2010** and is located in the parking lot of the Oakland Mills Village Center along Robert Oliver Place. The farmers market will run through **November 21, 2010**.

For additional details, contact the Oakland Mills Village Center at **410-730-4610**.

The New Water and Sewer Billing System Has Gone Live!

Have you received your new bill and wonder why you've received your bill sooner than expected? Processing a customer's bill sooner allows residents to respond to circumstances such as a dripping faucet or running toilet that may be impacting your water bill. For more details, call **410-313-2058**.

Secondary Language Arts Advisory Committee Seeks New Members!

We want you! The Secondary Language Arts Advisory Committee is seeking new members. The committee consists of Secondary Language Arts teachers, administrators, students, parents, and other interested community members who meet to advise, support and advocate for the continuous improvement of educational programs in order to ensure that all Howard County students are college and career-ready.

This committee meets four times during the school year and the tentative schedule for next year's meets is as follows: **September 30, 2010, November 18, 2010, February 24, 2011 and April 29, 2011** and will be held from **3:00-4:30pm**.

If you are interested and would like to serve on this committee, contact Elaine Zavaleta, Secondary Language Arts Administrative Secretary at **410-313-6620** or email Elaine_Zavaleta@hcpss.org.

RECYCLE your old TV's!

The Howard County Bureau of Environmental Services would like to remind residents to recycle analog TV's rather than throw them away. Options: Alpha Ridge Landfill Resident's Convenience Area open 8am-4pm Mon-Sat and Best Buy's Customer Take-Back Program. For more info, call **410-313-6444**.

At-Large Members Needed for Community Advisory Council!

The Community Advisory Council to the Board of Education is currently seeking at-large members for the coming school year. The council sponsors educational programming for members and provides the opportunity to study and have input into curriculum, educational policy, redistricting and budget.

The committee meets at **7:30pm** the third Tuesday of each month at the Department of Education, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD. At-large members serve a two-year term. For more information, please call **410-313-6682** or email tjmallo@verizon.net.

Stay Active with Recreation & Parks Fall Activity Guide!

Be on the lookout... The Department of Recreation and Parks has released its Fall 2010 Activity Guide with exciting opportunities for residents to participate in! Guides were sent out in the Columbia Flier, the Laurel Leader, the Sunday Baltimore Sun and the Sunspot newspapers.

You may also access this guide online at <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP/Seasonal%20Activity%20Guides.htm> or pick up a free copy at our Howard County library branches, community centers and the Recreation and Parks Headquarters. For more information, call **410-313-4700**.

Howard County Safety... Helpful Hints!

The Columbia Association (CA) and the Howard County Police Department (HCPD) have joined forces to enhance the safety of our residents in Columbia and Howard County at large.

Every month, safety tips and valuable information will be added to their newly formed website www.howardcountysafety.org. I encourage residents to continuously check this site for helpful hints to protect yourself and property and potentially reduce crime through your efforts!

Protect Your Belongings & Report Suspicious Behavior!

Neighborhoods have been noticing an increase of vehicle, garage and shed break-ins. I want to take a brief moment to share some ways that even a small change can make a big difference in preventing crime.

To reduce vehicle break-ins, please remove electronics, GPS systems and mounting devices, CDs, and especially loose change or money from plan view. Preferably all items should be removed from your car. Most crimes are ones of opportunity and removing visibility may help reduce these incidents. In addition, please take a moment to lock your home, including your garages and sheds. Residents often leave garage doors open when doing yard work or other activities during the warmer months. If the door to the interior of your home is unlocked including through your garage, it provides an opportunity to burglars.

It is equally important that residents also be aware of their surroundings and report suspicious persons, behaviors and activities to the police. By contacting the police, they can quickly establish possible suspects and patterns of behavior that may be helpful. Please contact the police by calling **911** or the non-emergency number **410-313-2200**.

For additional ways to feel secure in your home and neighborhood, visit http://www.howardcountymd.gov/Police/PD_CommPol.htm.

Financial Assistance Corner

We are experiencing an unprecedented economic recession and while Howard County may be consistently identified as one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, our residents and families are feeling the squeeze of this economic crisis. I receive a lot of calls to my office asking for referrals and county assistance so I wanted to take a moment and dedicate a section in my Newsletter identifying resources to help our residents save money. In addition to the information below, I encourage residents to visit our Howard County Government's website at www.co.ho.md.us/servicesresidents_financialassistance.htm. On this site, you will find resources for a variety of assistance including but not limited to child care, food, energy, water and housing.

TAX CREDITS: The most quick and efficient way to reduce your expenses is to consider the tax credits available to you as Howard County residents. For your convenience, I have listed examples below as well as their respective online application; however you can find a complete list and instructions on how to apply at www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOF_RealPropertyTaxInformation.htm or by calling **410-313-4076**.

Senior Tax Credit: www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/SeniorCreditApp.pdf

Homeowners Tax Credit: www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/HTC-60.pdf

Homestead Tax Credit: www.dat.state.md.us

Daycare Provider Tax Credit: www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/Daycare.pdf

Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker:

www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/Emergencyworker.pdf

Disabled Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker:

www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/DisabledPoliceRescueWorker.pdf

In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland and empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services.

Grassroots provides programs and services including a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter and Day Resource Center.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at 6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044. For more information, please call **410-531-6006** or visit their website online at www.grassrootscrisis.org. The 24-hour line is **410-531-6677** and the MD Crisis Hotline is **1-800-422-0009**.

Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, visit http://www.howardcountymd.gov/Auditor/Auditor_FraudAlertForm.asp. If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous by leaving blank those fields requesting personal information. You should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information.

For more information, email hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov or call **410-313-2005**.

How and When to Use the Emergency Room!

Remember in Howard County, there are a number of affordable alternatives to the Emergency Room if you are ill (coughs, colds, ear infections, minor burns, strains/sprains), but **not** experiencing a medical emergency. These "minute clinics" are a great resource to receive medical attention on a weekend, late night, or simply when your regular physician cannot see you. Many have extended and weekend hours and do not require appointments. Most accept insurance but please call the provider/clinic for details.

For a list of providers, visit <http://www.co.ho.md.us/health/docs/urgentcarecenterslist5-2010.pdf>. For additional information, contact our Health Department online at http://www.co.ho.md.us/Health/HealthMain/Health_HomePage.htm or call **410-313-6300**.

Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

To Schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of Howard County's toll free number: **1-800-506-5806**.

Boards and Commissions Vacancies!

Dr. Calvin Ball
Howard County Council
District 2
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

cball@howardcountymd.gov

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CC_DistrictTwo.htm

Howard County is well known for our active and informed residents which I proudly represent. Whether it's volunteering for an organization or coming out to provide feedback to the County Council, I am honored to be part of a County in which our residents care so much about our communities.

Active involvement is the first step in making positive change in Howard County. At this time, several of our Howard County Board and Commissions still have vacancies. Members are a vital link between our citizens and the officials who represent them and it's so important that we fill these positions so that they may be as effective as possible.

Please visit our website online at http://www.howardcountymd.gov/PortalServices/HC_boards_vacancies.htm for a list of possible vacancies including any special requirements they may have as well as instructions on how to apply.

*"Human kindness has never
weakened the stamina or
softened the fiber of a free
people. A nation does not have
to be cruel to be tough."*

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard County Police Department and the community designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors.

For more information, please contact the Howard County Police Department at **410-313-2200**.

We Want to Hear From You!

The link below will navigate you to a list of upcoming Council meetings open to the public. If you have specific questions, please call the contact number listed for that meeting.

http://www.co.ho.md.us/News/HCG_Portal_PublicMeetings.htm

View the Council's Current Legislation and Stay Informed!

The County Council is responsible for adopting laws within Howard County. The legislative progress generally follows a monthly cycle. To view legislation under consideration by the Council, please click on the following link

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/Legislative_Pending.htm

How You Can Participate in Howard County Government!

This is your opportunity to stay informed and get involved! Your comments are always welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email or fax.

All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room A, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**. Click on the following link for the Council's calendar of meetings

http://www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/CC_Legislative_CouncilCalendar.htm